



NC Board of Transportation Environmental Planning and Policy Committee



Presentation by
Bill Gilmore, EEP Director
May 5, 2004



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Outline

- Program Principles
- High Quality Preservation
- The Biennial Budget



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The Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) combines:

- DENR's existing wetlands restoration program
- NCDOT's mitigation program

to offset transportation project impacts through advance mitigation



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EEP's Strategy

- Programmatic mitigation based on anticipated future-year impacts
- Watershed-level mitigation to replace lost or degraded functions
- Accelerate mitigation to be functional prior to impacts



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EEP's Foundation

an interagency partnership



Merger 01 Workshop

NCDOT NCDCM
NCDWQ NCWRC
NCMF USACE
USEPA USFWS
FHWA



Mitigation Workshop

Fundamentals of EEP

- **Regulatory Agencies' needs**
 - watershed planning basis
 - functional replacement system
 - pro-active mitigation
 - single process for mitigation
 - independent agency program



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Fundamentals of EEP (cont.)

Regulatory Agencies Agreed to:

- 2-Year Transition period
- Use of High Quality Preservation for mitigation
 - a major concession
- Allowing permitting to proceed based on Preservation alone during Transition – another major concession
 - provided 1:1 restoration is provided at the end of the transition
- Assisting DOT with a means use alternative mitigation methods (e.g., BMP's)



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Fundamentals of EEP (cont.)

Regulatory Agencies Agreed to:

- Allowing Preservation to be provided by large Eco-Regions instead of smaller Cataloging Units **another major concession**
- Allowing EEP staff to focus efforts on securing Restoration while implementing a Preservation program



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The Department of Transportation

- Set into motion an unparalleled national model for compensatory mitigation
- Set the stage for addressing mitigation proactively, to avoid delaying transportation projects
- Re-confirmed its commitment to environmental stewardship



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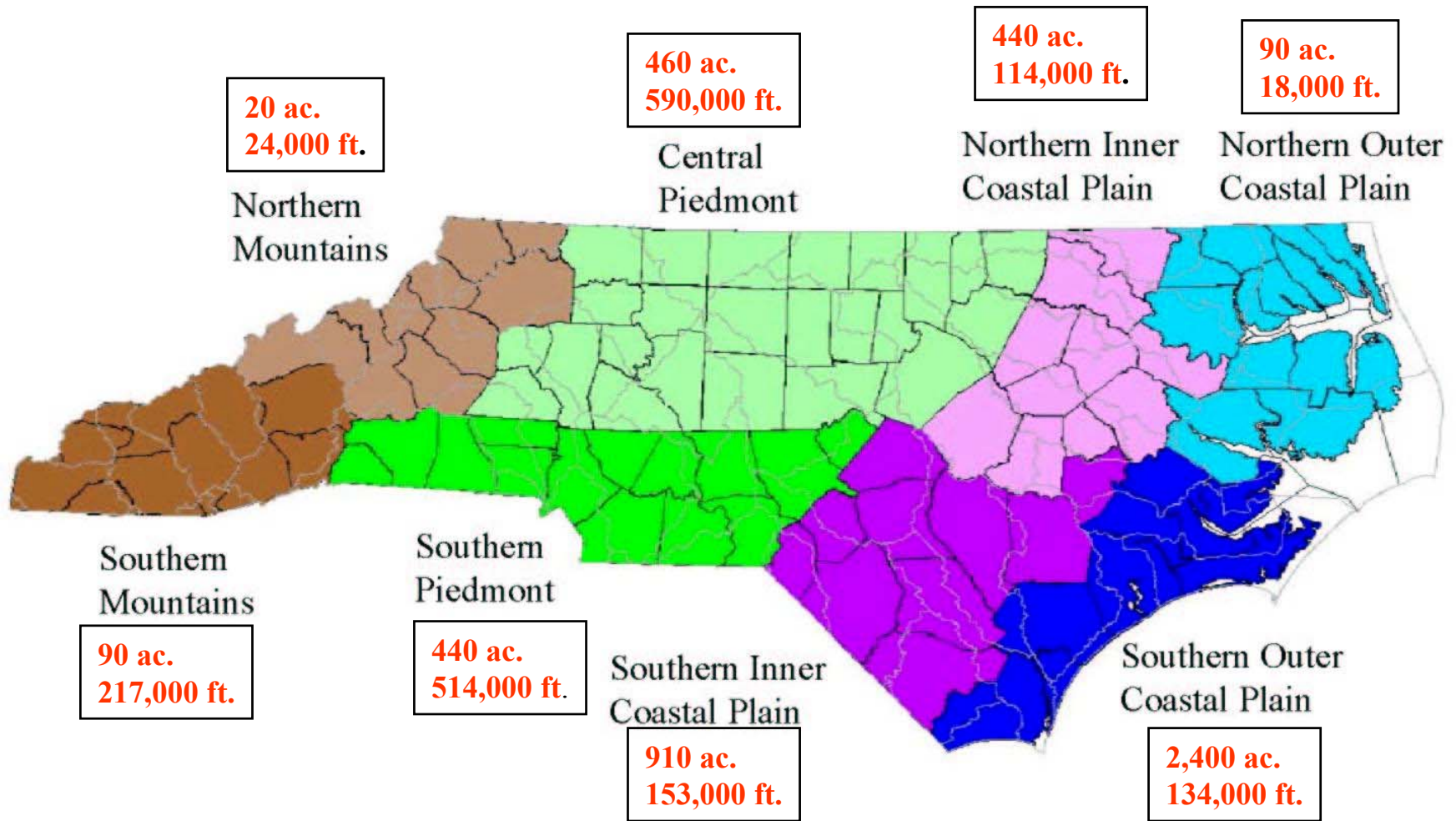
High Quality Preservation



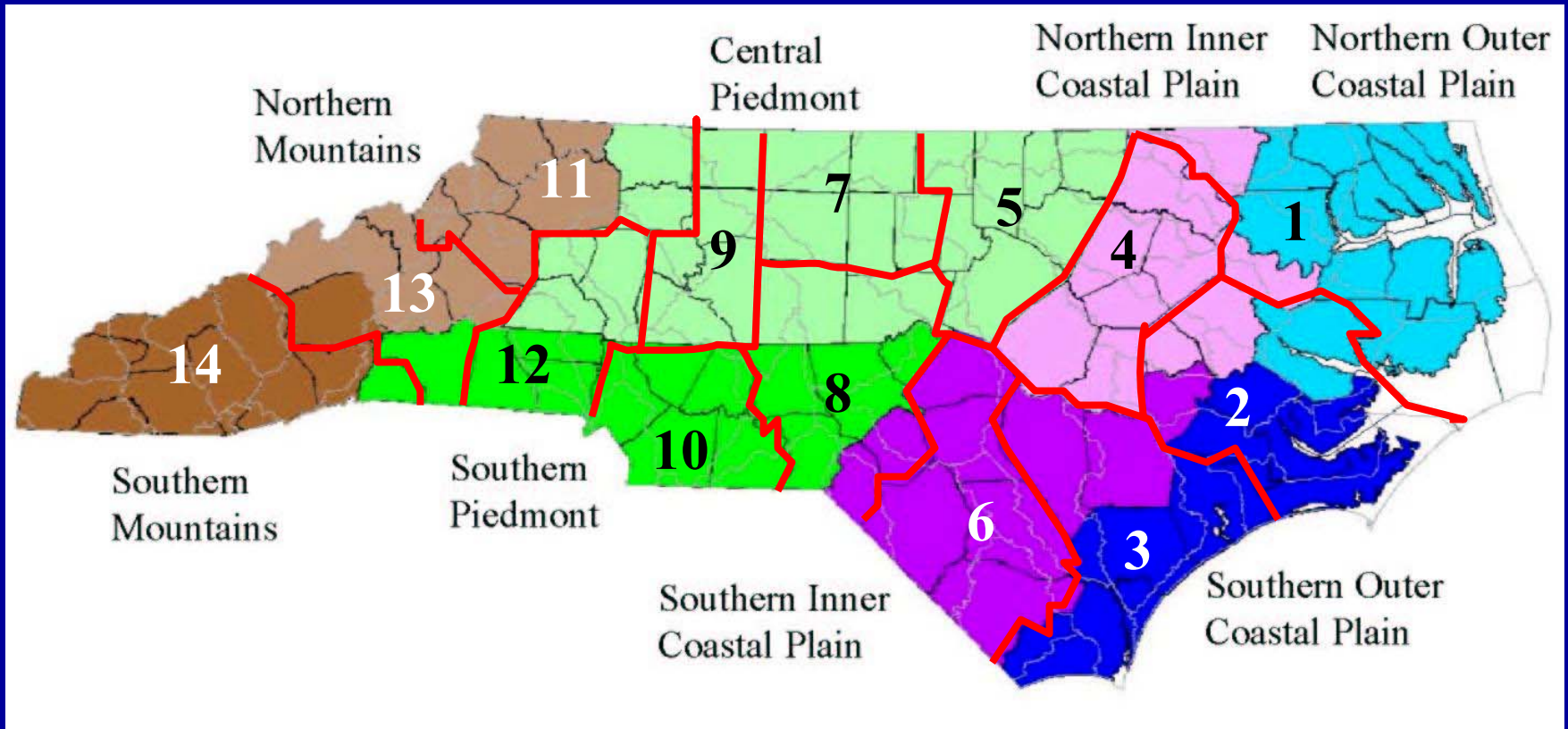
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Transition 10:1 Preservation Needs



Eco-Region and Highway Division Boundaries



High Quality Preservation

- Jump starts the EEP program before Restoration becomes available
- Protects the natural system investment
- Provides recyclable mitigation to meet future needs
- Creates reservoirs of mitigation for future TIP projects
- Will be used to offset Nationwide permits



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4-30-04

Preservation Progress

Preservation Acquired



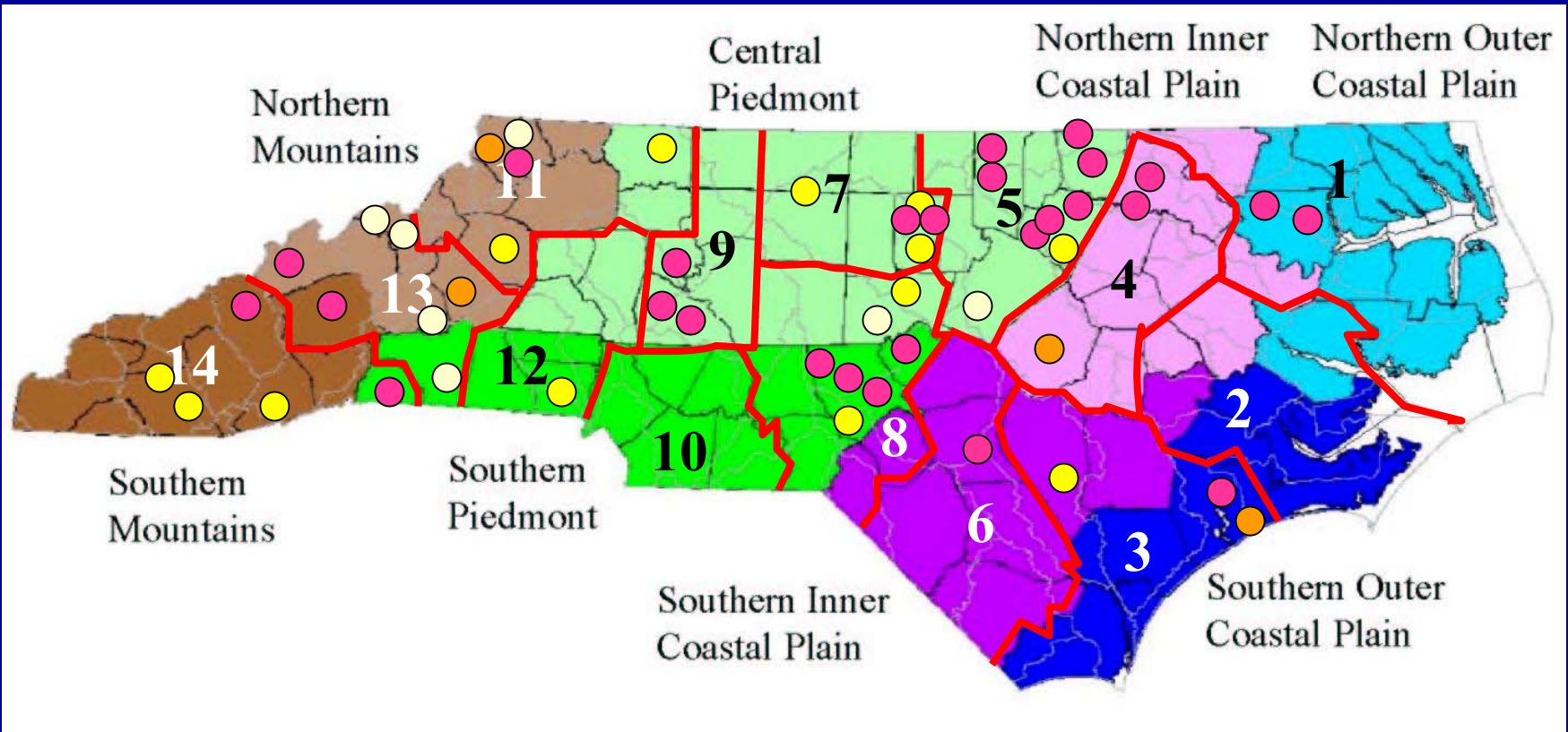
Option Under Negotiation



Option Obtained



Site Identified



Preservation accomplishments...



Great Coharie Swamp Southern Inner Coastal Plain **Sampson**
155,000 ft. of streams & 4,000 ac. of riverine wetlands (Sampson)



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Allen Tract Central Piedmont Franklin

16,000 ft. of streams & 26 ac. of riverine wetlands



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Mingo Tract Northern Mountains Caldwell and Wilkes

73,000 ft. of streams



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Rankin Tract Southern Piedmont Gaston

18,000 ft. of streams



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Haw River Tract Central Piedmont Chatham

32,000 ft. of streams



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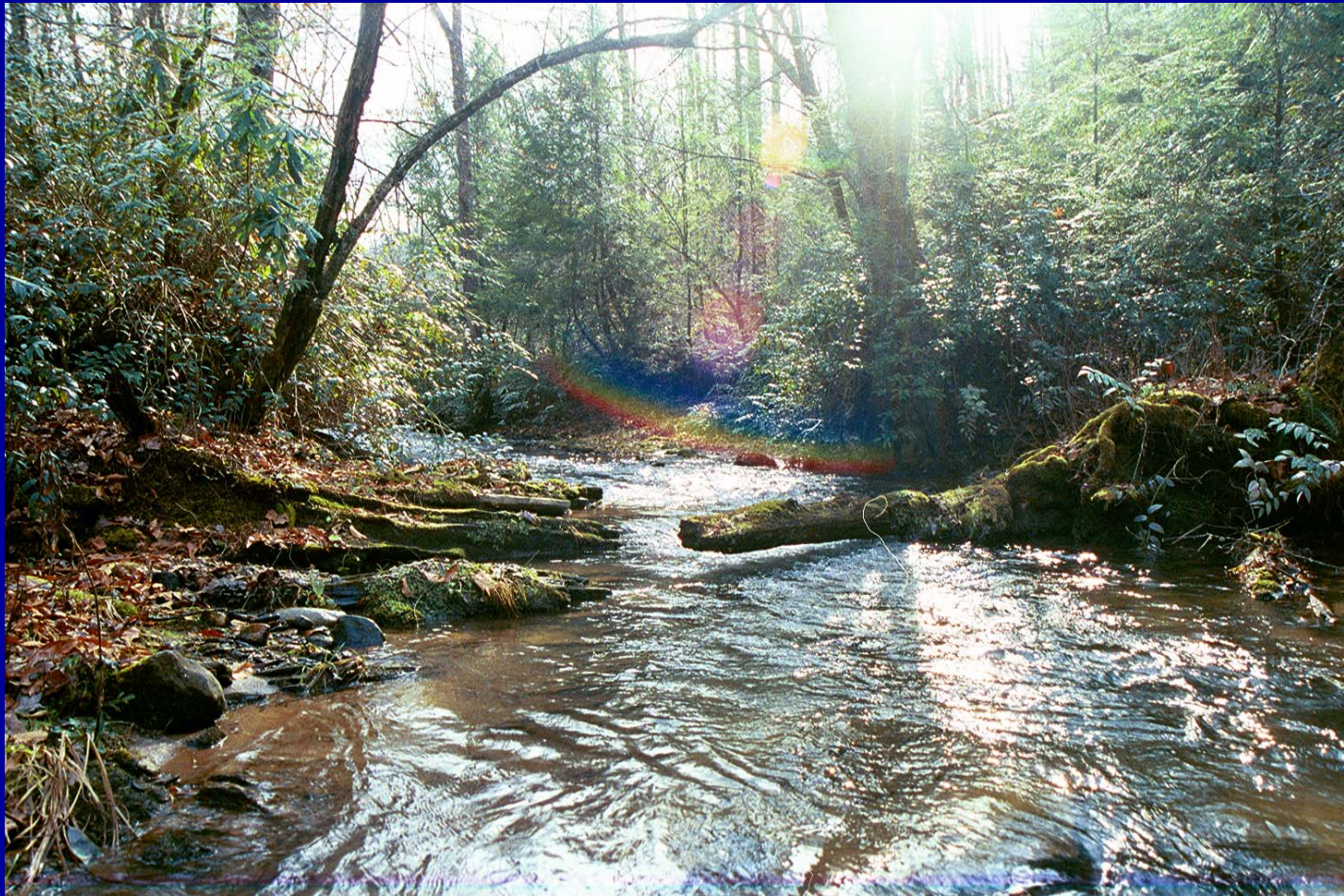
Eno River Tracts Central Piedmont Orange

26,000 ft. of streams



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Needmore Tract Southern Mountains Macon and Swain

96,500 ft. of streams



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Added Benefits of Preservation

- Protects investments in Restoration
- Increases open space
- Improves quality of life
- Protects high-quality or rare natural communities
- Protects water supplies
- Protect rare species
- Promotes positive feelings towards NCDOT



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The Biennial Budget



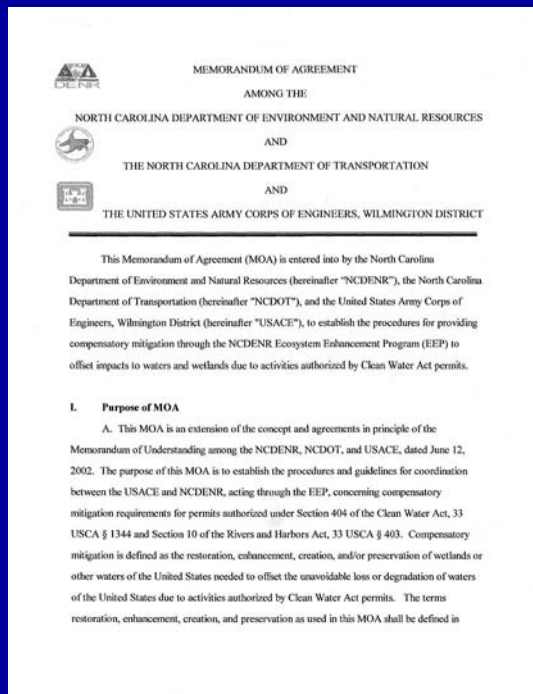
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3-Party MOA

DOT/DENR/USACE

July 2003

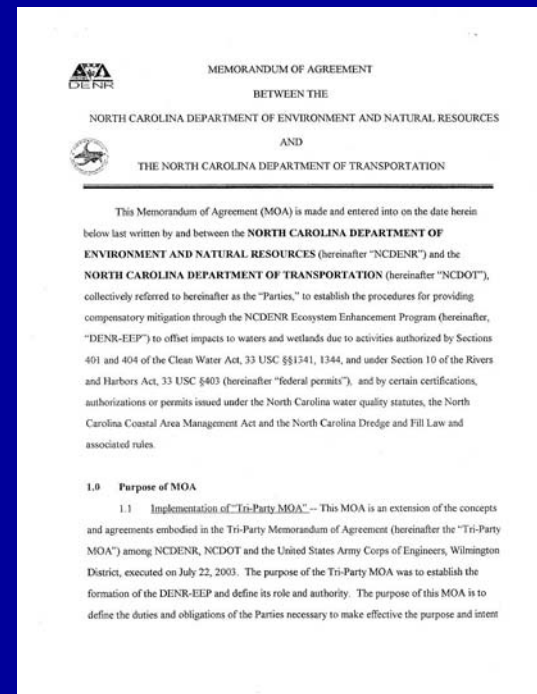


Regulatory Document

2-Party MOA

DOT/DENR

April 2004



Business Document



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2-Party MOA

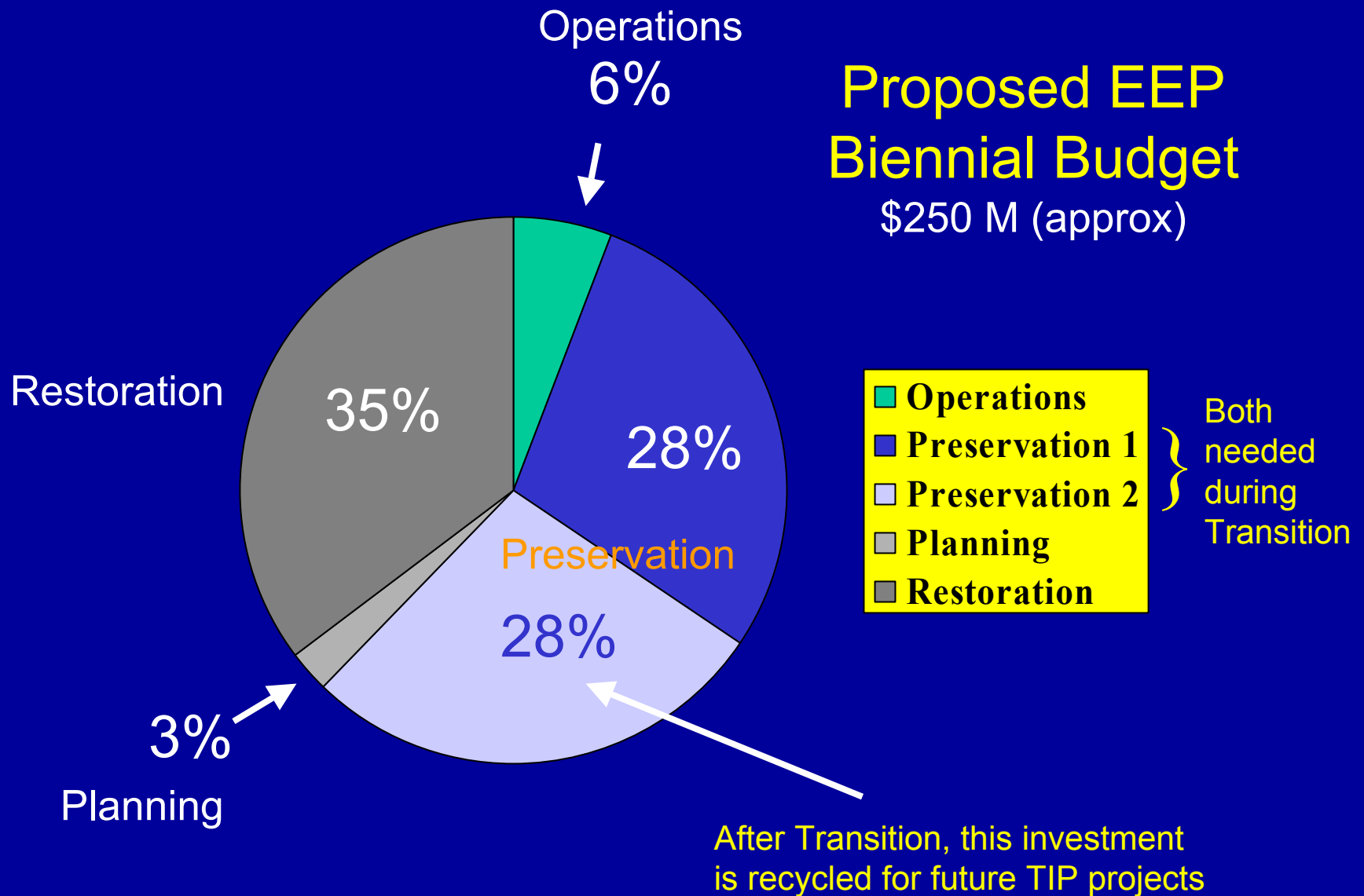
- Sets procedures for business management
 - Accounting
 - Invoicing
 - Progress Reports
- Requires Biennial Budget to be approved by the Department of Transportation
 - Introduce EEP as TIP addition, June 2004
 - Board action, July 2004
- Specifies Quarterly Invoice Procedures



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Proposed EEP Biennial Budget \$250 M (approx)



EEP Supports Good Transportation, the Economy, and Provides Beneficial Natural Systems Return to the Environment

One North Carolina Naturally

Partnerships In Conservation

A coordinated map to guide implementation and track progress in the statewide comprehensive plan for conserving our land and water resources.

The plan will focus on a balanced approach toward functional ecosystems, biological diversity and working landscapes (farmed and forested areas) through stewardship of land and water.

As regional plans are developed, the future focus areas in each region will be incorporated into the comprehensive statewide map.



Questions ?



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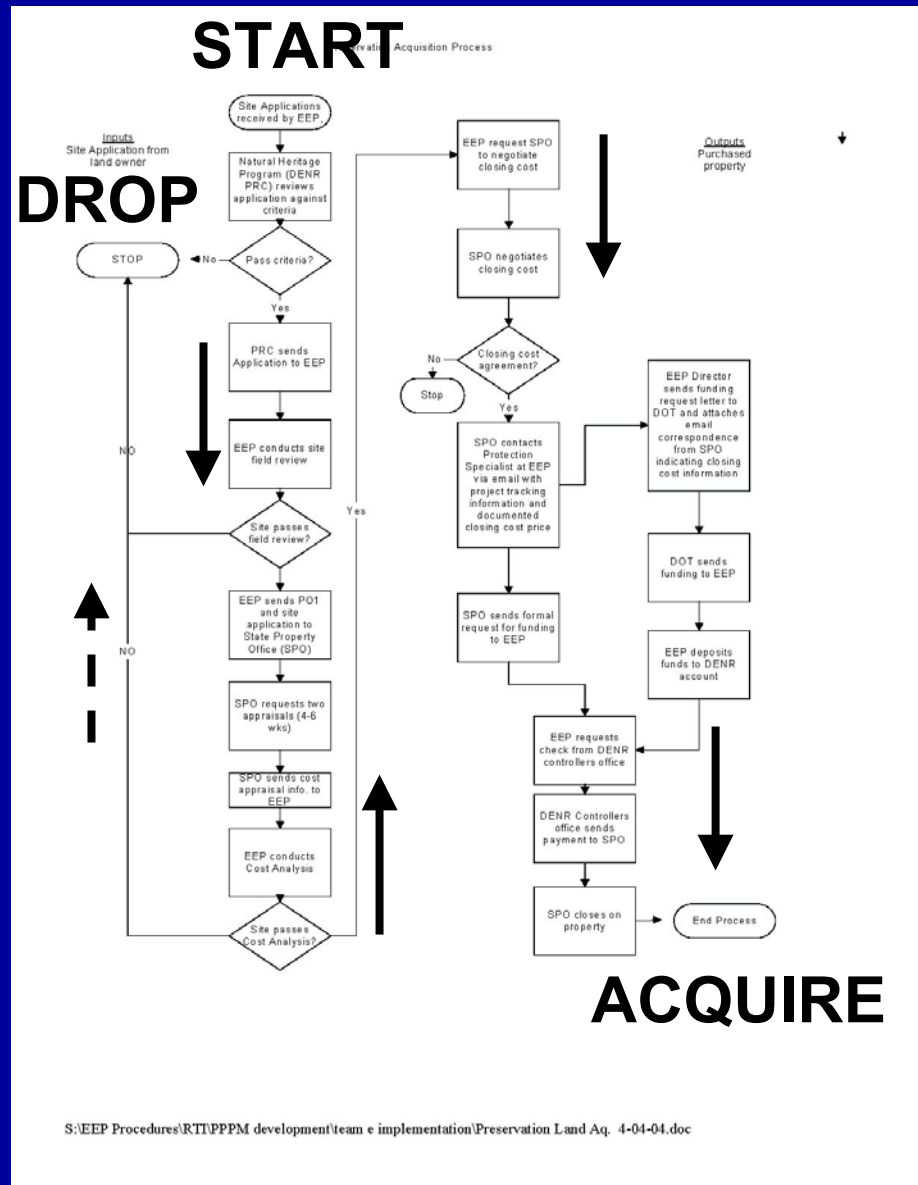
Unused Slides follow



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Preservation Acquisition Process Chart



S:\EEP Procedures\RTTPPPM development\team e implementation\Preservation Land Acq. 4-04-04.doc



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Needmore Tract Southern Mountains



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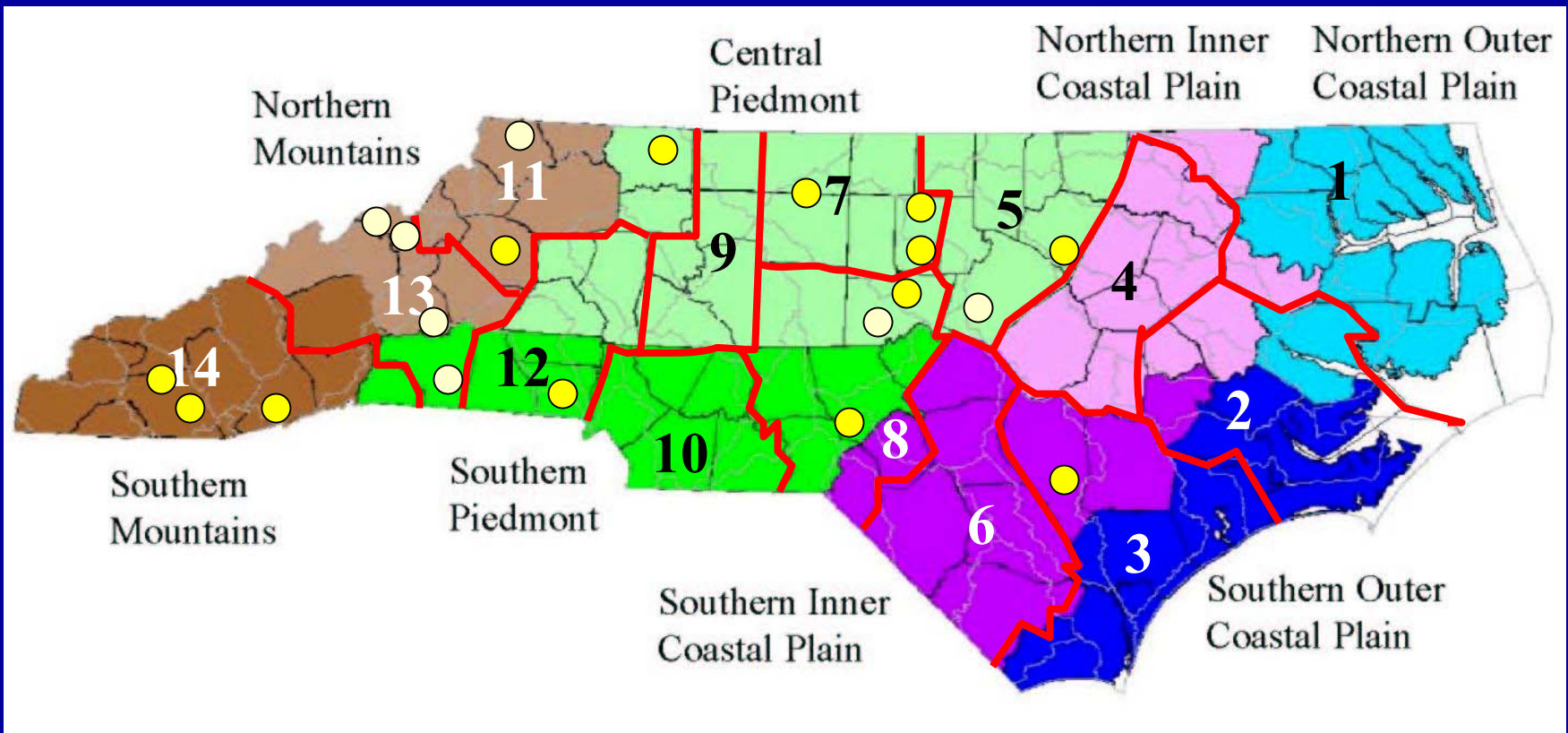
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Preservation Progress

Preservation Acquired



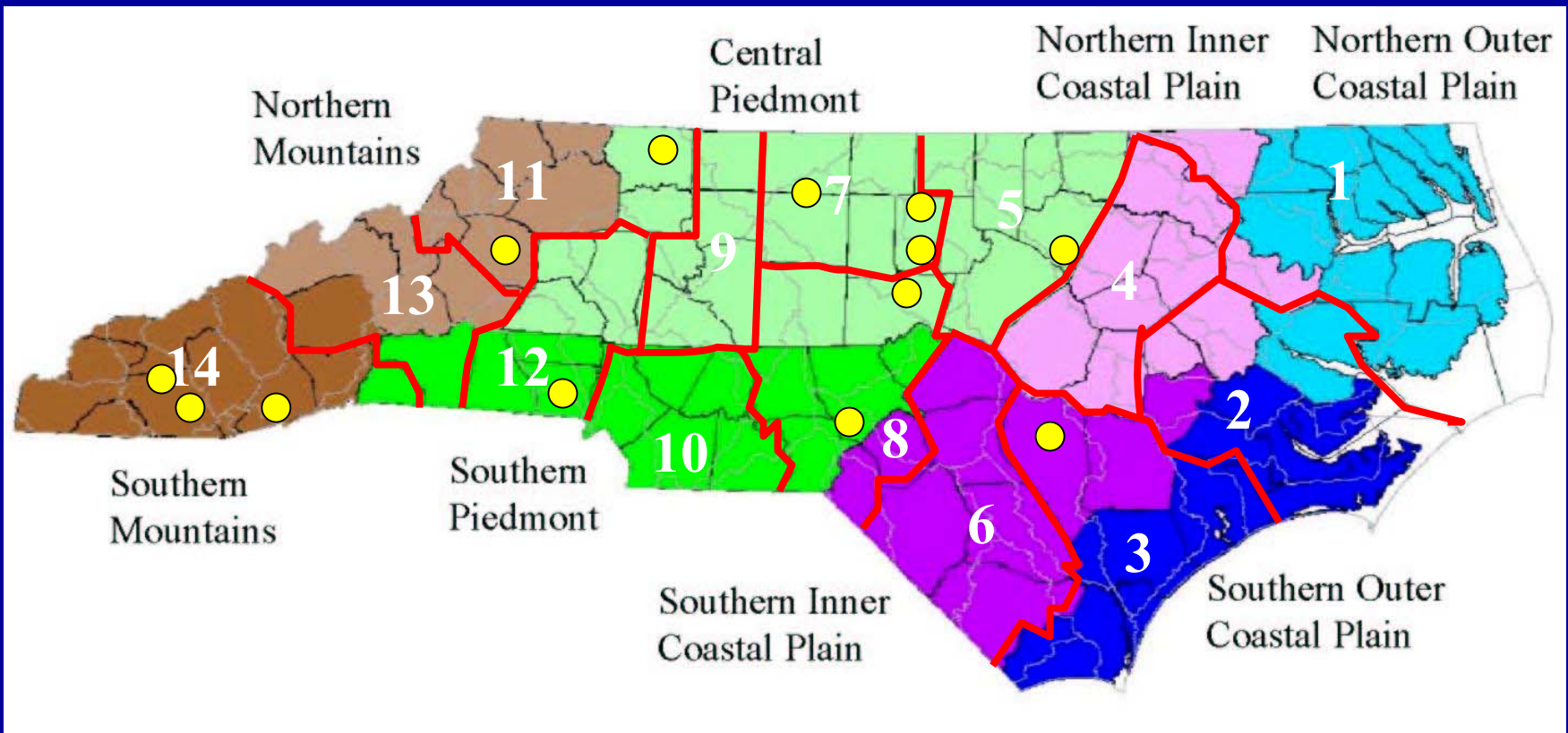
Option Obtained



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Preservation Progress

Preservation Acquired



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Preservation Progress

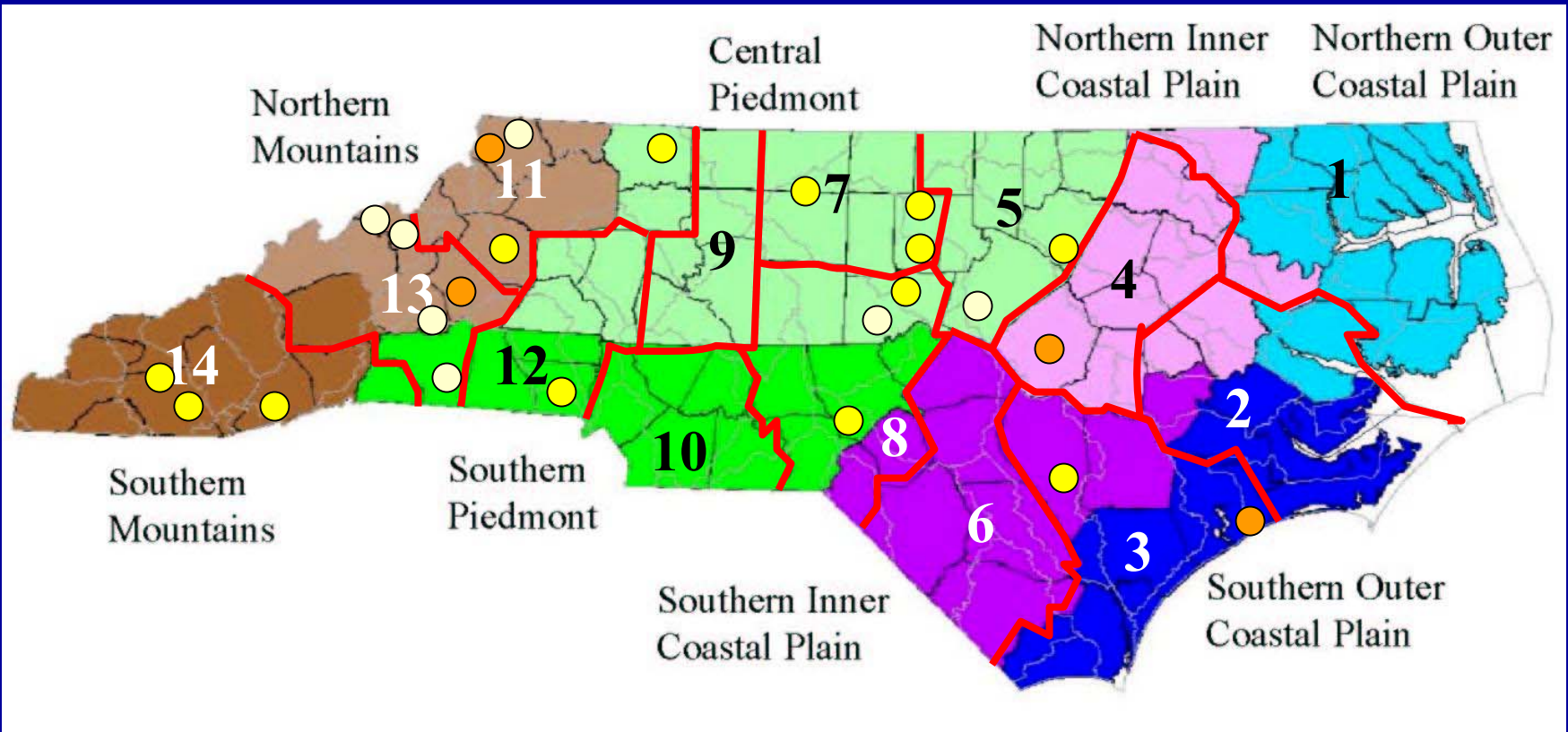
Preservation Acquired



Option Under Negotiation



Option Obtained



Eco-Regions and Highway Divisions

Division	Eco-Region							
	NOCP	SOC	NICP	SICP	CP	SP	NM	SM
1	✓		✓					
2	✓	✓	✓	✓				
3		✓		✓				
4			✓					
5					✓			
6				✓				
7					✓			
8				✓	✓	✓		
9					✓			
10						✓		
11							✓	
12					✓	✓		
13						✓	✓	✓
14						✓		✓